

Samuel H. Lamberson

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Reconstruction.

At the termination of the war, the dominant party in America enforced on the Southern States a policy of "reconstruction." Not content with the emancipating of the slaves, without compensation to their owners, as was justly due to them, and as had been done by England on the emancipating of the slaves in the West Indies, Congress declared them citizens of the United States, with all the rights and privileges thereof. There was thus added to the number of voters an enormous mass of men totally unfitted to exercise the suffrage with justice to the country or to themselves. The pretence was magnanimity and liberality to the colored people. The fact was that unprincipled adventurers thus secured possession of the legislative and administrative offices of the South. These they have continued to hold till they have been obliged to relinquish them from their own inherent rottenness and depravity. Frauds of enormous magnitude have been perpetrated on the Southern people, unequalled in history and excelled only by those of the thieves at Washington, by whom the highest offices of the nation have been held. Not only have the ignorant colored people been thus made base tools to further the ends of scoundrels, but their very hard-earned savings, deposited in the Freedmen's Bank, have been stolen from them by their pretended friends. This has been the chief means of opening the eyes of the colored people, so that they are now learning that their true interest requires them to join their employers and others, true people of the South, for the restoration and the right government of the country. Still farther, this infamous party disfranchised large numbers of the leading men of the South, who, by their education, integrity and social elevation, were eminently fitted to be and had been the staunchest citizens of their several States. Even now some of these men have not been restored to their rights of citizenship. What a scandal that such a man as Beauregard, of whom, as a soldier and a civilian, the record is pure, and who would be joyfully hailed into the ranks of citizenship of England, France and other countries of Europe, is an alien at home, while the most important offices of the nation have been entrusted to Belknap, Babcock, Robeson, Ingalls and others, whose very names it is a degradation to pronounce! We are certainly, in this, not writing politics. It is only history, and only as such we write of and refer to the administrative and legislative policy of the South for the few years past. If the language is strong, or seems strong now, it will be mild compared to the record to be made by the historian some years hence. The rule, as set forth above, was called reconstruction; heaven save the country should it have much more of such reconstruction!

The real "reconstruction" of the South must be the work of the Southern people themselves. When we consider the vast resources of the country—its genial climate, its rich and fertile soil, its enormous stores of coal and iron, its great available water power for mills and factories, its unrivalled extent of river navigation, and its many outlets to the sea for foreign traffic—we cannot but deem the prospects of success most encouraging to those engaged in the various industries of the land. We are happy to observe that the attention

of the planters has been directed to the adoption of a more correct system of farming, in accordance with recent scientific discoveries in agriculture, as well as introducing for "extensive culture crops hitherto unknown in the South; for instance, jute, which, as has been proven by careful experiments, may be profitably cultivated in many parts of the Southern States. This may become a staple second in importance only to that of cotton. We are glad to observe that factories for the manufacture of cotton goods are largely multiplying in the South, especially in Georgia. We are confident that cotton, jute and woolen factories will soon appear in the States of Louisiana and Mississippi. The marvel is that New Orleans has not been the American Manchester. With the largest quantity and the finest quality of cotton in the world arriving in that city, and with abundance of labor seeking for employment, yet hitherto these enormous advantages have been neglected. But this state of things, we feel sure, will not long endure. If, from whatever cause, the capitalists of New Orleans and other cities fail to enter into manufacturing enterprises, so soon as the extraordinary advantages of the South for the manufacture of cotton and other fabrics are thoroughly known in Europe, European enterprise will accomplish that which Americans have overlooked. So, too, with the iron of Alabama and Tennessee. As is well known, the iron of these States is equal in quality to that of England and Sweden. Capital and enterprise operating in the mines of the South will have richer rewards than those of the gold and silver mines of California and Nevada. We trust the dark clouds of disaster are passing away, to be succeeded by a long sunshine of prosperity. We are confident that the Valley of the Mississippi will yet become one of earth's busiest lands of agricultural and manufacturing industry, and to hasten that end, is one of the pleasant tasks of every lover of the South.

D. J.

The Effect of the Jetties on New Orleans and the Mississippi Valley.

We copy the following from Financial and Commercial Chronicle, of New York; in reference to the deepening of the mouth of the Mississippi river, by means of the Eads' Jetty system:

If the end sought can be really attained, we look for a decided change in the business at New Orleans. Of course all trade channels work themselves into importance, like Captain Eads' jetties, slowly. As is well known, however, the bar at the mouth of the Mississippi River has always prevented any considerable development in breadstuff shipments. Much has been written in the North about wheat and corn heating, when taken that way; but we are persuaded there is nothing in this idea. Remove the bar, that is, give vessels 28 or more feet of water, and, we fancy, after that there will be very little discussion of the heating question. The trouble is now, that it pays better to take cotton; but with the improved channel they can carry a mixed cargo and make more money. For instance, the Mississippi and Dominion steamers, which run between New Orleans and Liverpool, are never loaded to their carrying capacity. They fill up with cotton, and load down to—say 19 feet; but, remove the bar, and they will carry just about the same amount of cotton, and put in wheat as dead weight, loading down to

22 feet. This is simply an illustration of a general well-known truth. Now, suppose we add to it one further fact, stated to us by a New Orleans friend who proposes to do it himself as soon as the difficulty at the mouth of the river is removed—that is, bring wheat to New Orleans from Cairo at three cents a bushel. Very possibly this is a little overdraw, and may not be realized; but our informant's plan contemplates the construction of a peculiarly made boat, with a double bottom, which will permit its return up the river without too much resistance from the current. We might add that the person we refer to is a man whose business capacity has been demonstrated by a success few attain, and possessing energy enough to prove (if we did not know to the contrary) that his birth was among the New Hampshire hills.

But, aside from this individual promise, it is not reasonable to suppose that, after the Mississippi is opened at its mouth and low freight to Europe for breadstuffs become a possibility, some inexpensive mode of floating wheat down that river will be adopted, so as to save to the producer several cents a bushel, and solving the question of cheap transportation for the extreme Western section? We are persuaded that there is much in this idea, and that the future of New Orleans, as a large exporter of grain, is very promising. The people themselves are not much more than beginning to understand the situation. It is not their fault, though, but the fault of a base, corrupt power which has held their energies in check while stealing the little they did make. Now, however, this is being changed. Carpet-bag rule is at its last gasp, and we may soon hope to see that beautiful, fertile portion of our country left free to develop its wonderful resources.

For the Vindicator and News.
Restoration of Uplands.

Nature, in her wise economy of universal compensation, has provided certain classes of plants and animals with powers of digestion that enables them to subsist on the crudest materials, thereby preparing them for food for others of more delicate constitutions, in a regular gradation from original chaotic formations to the most refined and soluble condition. Using those hidden powers, long unsuccessfully sought by the alchemists of old, of transmuting the base into the purer by its many agents and combinations, it transforms substances into others totally different in condition and effect from the originals. In the action of a class of plants possessing the power to draw substances from the chemist's "insoluble" part of our soil and its transformation into vegetable matter, we must look for the means by which the deterioration of the soil can be both prevented and remedied. In that form it ameliorates the physical character of the soil, fermenting and decaying these into a soluble condition, and supplying humus, at the same time acting on the "insoluble" inorganic matter in contact with it, and furnishing available food for the more delicate constitutions of cotton, grain and other plants we wish to cultivate; also, in preventing the waste from washing rains by the increased power of absorption and the fibre the vegetable matter will give to the soil, in addition to the shade during growth in protecting it from the rays of the sun and consequent evaporation of its volatile elements.

To carry this mode of prevention and restoration into practical effect will

involve a radical change in the mode of farming hitherto generally followed, the continuous, clean cultivation of cotton, with, perhaps, now and then a change to corn, on the same land as long as it will produce either, being then almost, if not quite, divested of vegetable matter, and in consequence thereof whatever inorganic elements it holds being in an "insoluble" condition, it is then abandoned to sedge, briars and gullies. For this a greater diversity of crops must be adopted under a system that will keep these uplands at least two years out of four (the longer the better) occupied by some of those plants having the power of converting the crude materials of the soil into "available" matter, not only in promoting their own growth, but with the additional object of improvement of the soil for other crops, and at the same time affording a reasonable return for their cultivation. Pre-eminently qualified for this purpose, are the field pea and clover, the former being almost universal in its adaptation to soils of all characters; where it is to be used for the purpose proposed, the vines should never be removed from the land, but will pay a good profit on its cultivation in feeding hogs on the peas which they should gather for themselves, to be followed by rye treated in the same manner. Clover is adapted to those lands only having a clay sub-soil, and will be found to be a paying investment beyond its great improvement of the soil, affording the most nutritious food for all kinds of stock, whether as pasturage or cured into hay. Both these plants contain notable quantities of the elements of food, which by the chemists are considered essentials for both animals and plants, they, nevertheless, will extract them from a soil that apparently, by analysis, was deficient in them.

In the adoption of the system which is here pointed out, other great benefits can be confidently depended on to follow, not the least of which is that a reduced area in clean cultivation reduces the necessity for a large part of the labor now required, it being the most expensive and troublesome item in agriculture, by the introduction of these renovators, the natural addition of grasses will follow; to consume the large quantity of food as pasture and hay, stock of all kinds will be added, which, in their turn, will supply meat, work stock, wool and other articles which are now purchased from other localities, by which all the scant earnings under the present system are consumed, resulting in profit to others only.

Hinds County, Miss.

Our Jackson Letter.

MAJOR WALL: Possibly a few lines from the VINDICATOR's "old home" will be interesting to some of your readers. Yesterday was regular meeting day of Capital Grange, No. 19, of this city, and as very interesting meeting was held. This, as you know, is one of the most flourishing Granges in the State. We are now endeavoring to add a library to the Grange. The plan adopted is this: Each member is to contribute one or as many books as convenient. There being about 150 members, each contributing, say, on an average, of two books, will make up a library of 300 valuable works, and without any expense whatever. The advantage is readily seen, for by donating one or two books each individual member has access to a library of 300 volumes. A librarian will be selected, and no member will be allowed to take a second volume from the li-

brary until the first is returned. I have the volumes donated by the VINDICATOR AND NEWS and will present them.

Your subscribers here, of course, would rather your paper had remained here, but all admit that they think the move will redound to the benefit of the journal and the order. I have travelled through Hinds, Copiah, and Pike counties within the last three weeks and met many old friends of your paper. They all say they will stand by you as of yore and do all they can to advance the interest of the VINDICATOR AND NEWS. From the first number after the removal many thought the News had "swallowed up" the VINDICATOR but when the last two numbers came to hand and they beheld the same old features—the Fireside friends and all, at their posts—a smile of satisfaction seemed to light up their countenance, and I heard one remark "its the dear old VINDICATOR still." If the subscribers knew and could appreciate the many disadvantages we labored under while the paper was here, while fighting for them against such fearful odds, they would now rejoice to know that it has removed to a more favorable point. Keep firing your big guns Major, the "horny handed boys" will not desert you.

The spring has been very wet and backward, but I have never before seen the farmers working as earnestly and hopefully as they are at present. The cry of "hard times" seems to have become epidemic, and like the exciting "stop thief" is taken up all along the line (not knowing whether he is a thief or not) and is echoed and re-echoed throughout the length and breadth of the State, but notwithstanding this, let others say what they may, I venture the assertion that the farmers are in better circumstances now than they have been for years, at this season of the year. They have but little money to spend, it is true, but I have had an eye on their corn cribs, their tables, and their gardens, and find all well filled, with their work-stock and themselves in good condition for work. Cotton (dug-on-the-cotton) is being planted, I fear, too freely, but there is, nevertheless, a large acreage in corn, oats and wheat, planted. I am not a prophet, but were I allowed to make a guess, I would say it is my opinion that this centennial year will bring blessings to the farmers.

I have much to write, but know your space is limited, and will not intrude. If this is admitted in your columns, I will try and write a more interesting letter next time. Success to the old VINDICATOR AND NEWS, long, long may she wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave! Enclosed find \$2, for one years subscription. I know you would send me the paper free, owing to my recent connection with it, but from experience, I know a man who will "dead-beat" a newspaper, which is working for his interest, should be kicked out of the country, and I won't accept it gratis.

Yours Fraternally,
E. D. ELLIOTT.
Jackson, Miss., April 23rd, 1876.

Kind words are the bright flowers of earth's existence; use them, and especially around the fireside circle. They are jewels beyond price, and powerful to heal the wounded heart and make the weighed down spirit glad.

It has been found that in nearly every civilized country the tree that bears the most fruit for market is the axle-tree.